11/24/86 58895-1

WYOMING

VOL. 23 NO. 11 NOV. 1986

LABOR FORCE TRENDS

TREND SETTERS

WYOMING	Aug '86	Sept '86
Labor Force	257,351	255,419
Employment	236,827	234,889
Unemployment	20,524	20,530
Rate (Raw)	8.0	8.0
Rate (S.A.)	9.3	9.9
Mining Hourly Wage	$14.13	$14.11
Avg. Weekly Hours, Mining	41.4	41.4
USA		
Rate (S.A.)	6.8	7.0
Mining Hourly Wage	$12.45	$12.49
Avg. Weekly Hours, Mining	42.4	42.7
Consumer Price Index		
All Urban 1967 = 100		
U.S. City Avg.	328.6	330.2
Denver (Bimonthly)		362.9
Year Change (U.S.)	+1.6	+1.8

S.A.-Seasonally Adjusted

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- Wyoming Bankruptcies Soar
- Casper Pay Ranks 45th Among 305 Metropolitan Areas
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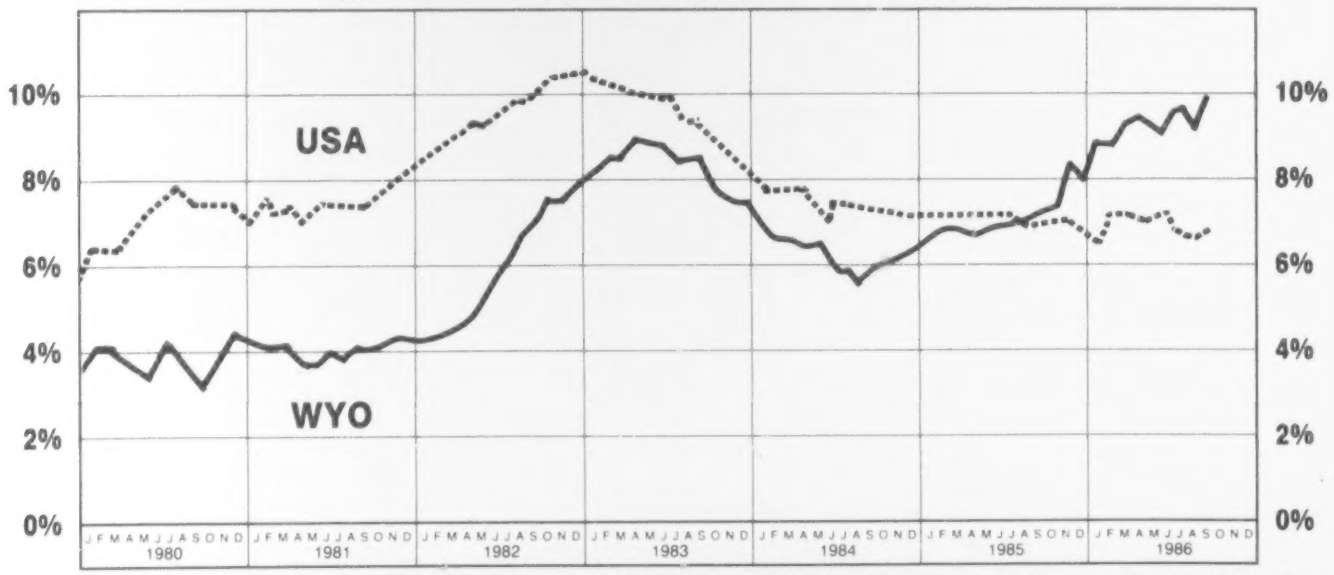
IN THE UNITED STATES

The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) reported that in the U.S., unemployment totalled 8.3 million out of a civilian labor force of 118.2 million in September, seasonally adjusted. The civilian unemployment rate, seasonally adjusted, stood at 7.0 percent, up from the August rate of 6.8 percent, and down from the September 1985 rate of 7.1 percent. The national unadjusted rate in September was 6.8 percent.

In September the lowest unemployment, 5.3 percent, was held by white women, 20 years and over. Adult white males followed closely behind with a rate of 5.4 percent. The highest rate, 38.3 percent, was held by black youth 16-19 years of age. In September the average duration of unemployment was 15.6 weeks.

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE, WYOMING AND THE U.S. (S.A.)



WYOMING EMPLOYMENT SECURITY COMMISSION, Research & Analysis Section

Prepared in conjunction with U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

WYOMING STATISTICS

Wyoming's September unemployment rate of 8.0 percent remained the same as August's rate, but was substantially higher than the September, 1985 rate of 5.9 percent. Seasonally adjusted, the rate went up 0.6 in September to 9.9 percent.

The September labor force declined from August, statewide, by almost 2,000 workers to 255,419 and was down 3.3 percent from the September, 1985 labor force.

During September five counties in the state had double-digit unemployment rates. Big Horn County again was the highest at 11.4 percent, followed by Uinta, Converse, Natrona, and Fremont Counties with rates of 10.8, 10.7, 10.4, and 10.0 percent respectively. Teton County, still enjoying the effects of tourism, had the lowest unemployment, at 4.1 percent.

NEIGHBORING STATES

The most current rates available for Wyoming's surrounding states are unrevised, not seasonally adjusted August rates. Of Wyoming's six neighboring states, only Idaho (8.2) had a higher rate when compared to Wyoming's August rate of 8.0 percent. The remaining states of Colorado, Montana, Utah, South Dakota and Nebraska had lower rates of 6.6, 6.5, 5.3, 4.1 and 3.9 percent respectively. Mississippi, at 12.7 percent, had the highest rate in the United States and New Hampshire had the lowest rate of 2.9 percent.

COUNTIES WITH FLUCTUATIONS OF 400 OR MORE WORKERS

When comparing Wyoming's First Quarter 1986 average monthly covered employment to First Quarter 1985, there were nine counties with fluctuations of 400 or more workers:

Natrona County had an employment loss of 1,940 which was a 6 percent decrease from a year ago. This was primarily due to 1,124 loss of workers in Mining, a 261 loss in Services, and a 214 loss in Wholesale Trade.

Campbell County's loss of 718 employees was due to 426 fewer workers in Mining, and 248 in Construction. There was a slight gain of 105 in Services.

Fremont County's loss of 591 workers was primarily due to decreases of 379 in Mining, 117 in Manufacturing, and 93 in Construction.

Carbon County's loss of 506 employees was primarily due to a decrease of 358 in Mining.

Uinta County lost 441 workers, primarily due to decreases of 238 in Construction, 186 in Mining, and 59 in Retail Trade.

Laramie County's gain of 553 was due to 538 new workers in Construction, 280 in Retail Trade and 208 in Services. These gains were offset by a 462 loss in Transportation, Communication & Utilities.

Sweetwater County gained 1,176 workers. This was primarily due to increases of 764 in Construction, 278 in Retail Trade, and 239 in Services. There was a decrease of 373 in Mining.

Sublette County had an employment gain of 1,417 which was an 82 percent increase from a year ago. Substantial increases were: 1,049 in Construction, 235 in Mining, and 130 in Services.

Lincoln County had the largest employment growth in Wyoming, with 3,916. This was primarily due to an increase of 3,323 in Construction at Exxon's LaBarge Project. Other substantial increases were 536 in Retail Trade and 142 in Services.

WYOMING BANKRUPTCIES SOAR

Bankruptcies in Wyoming continued their upward spiral during 1985 as more individuals, couples, and businesses sought protection from the court system. In 1985, a total of 1,140 bankruptcies were filed, an increase of 170 over 1984. Estimates based on the first eight months of 1986 show Wyoming's bankruptcies climbing to 1,450 by year's end.

As would be expected, the counties hardest hit include the state's population centers as well as areas where mining and agriculture are the dominant industries. Natrona County had both the greatest number of bankruptcies and the highest bankruptcy rate of any county in the state. See the table. With over 300 bankruptcies and a rate of approximately 47 bankruptcies per 10,000 population, Natrona County is experiencing heavy losses.

Other counties besieged with increasing bankruptcies include: Converse, with 57 bankruptcies and a rate of 44.4; Carbon, with 65 bankruptcies and a rate of 36.2; Campbell, with 98 bankruptcies and a rate of 33.5; and Uinta, with 59 bankruptcies and a rate of 32.1. Even Laramie County, whose rate in the past has been lower than the statewide average, saw bankruptcies increasing to 218 and a rate of 31.1. The statewide rate was 29.2.

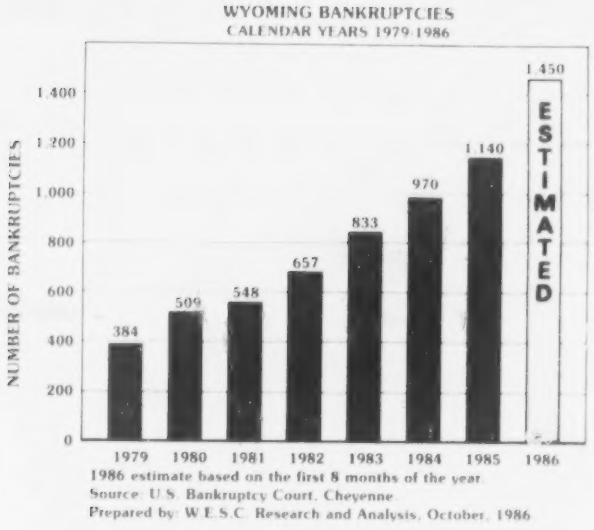
Just seven years ago the state had 384 bankruptcies. Compared to the 1986 estimate, that's an annual increase of almost 40 percent. If the same trend holds true, by 1990 we will have over 2,000 bankruptcies a year.

WYOMING COUNTIES BY NUMBER OF BANKRUPTCIES ALSO MONTHLY BANKRUPTCY AVERAGE AND BANKRUPTCY RATE SEPTEMBER 1985 to AUGUST 1986

	TOTAL FOR YEAR	PERCENT OF TOTAL	MONTHLY AVERAGE	RATE PER 10,000 POPULATION 1985 (DAFC* Estimate)
STATEWIDE	1,373	100.0	114	29.2
NATRONA	307	22.4	26	47.4
LARAMIE	218	15.9	18	31.1
CAMPBELL	98	7.1	8	33.5
FREMONT	87	6.3	7	25.5
SWEETWATER	80	5.8	7	20.4
ALBANY	66	4.8	6	21.6
CARBON	65	4.7	5	36.2
PARK	60	4.4	5	26.6
UINTA	59	4.3	5	32.1
CONVERSE	57	4.1	5	44.4
SHERIDAN	44	3.2	4	16.5
BIG HORN	31	2.3	3	27.5
WASHAKIE	27	2.0	2	27.5
GOSHEN	26	1.9	2	20.5
TETON	25	1.8	2	22.7
LINCOLN	18	1.3	2	12.0
PLATTE	18	1.3	2	20.9
WESTON	16	1.2	1	21.1
HOT SPRINGS	12	0.9	1	20.6
JOHNSON	10	0.7	1	15.4
SUBLETTE	9	0.7	1	12.8
NIOBRARA	8	0.6	1	25.2
CROOK	3	0.2	**	5.4
OUT-OF-STATE	29	2.1	2	N.A.

* Department of Administration and Fiscal Control

** Less than 1



CASPER PAY RANKS 45TH AMONG 305 METROPOLITAN AREAS

Casper's ranking among metropolitan areas for average annual pay has fallen for the third consecutive year, but unlike the state, still remains above the 1985 national average. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, Casper's 1985 average annual pay of $19,997 was a modest 0.8 percent gain over 1984. That percentage gain was one of the smallest, with only nine other metropolitan areas showing a smaller increase in pay. The statewide average pay for 1985 was $18,950.

CASPER'S ANNUAL AVERAGE PAY

	1982	1983	1984	1985
RANK	15TH	27TH	35TH	45TH
DOLLARS	$19,489	$19,617	$19,842	$19,997

Cheyenne, which is the only other Wyoming metropolitan area (50,000+ population) moved up slightly in the rankings, going from 147th in 1984 to 141st in 1985. Although the Capital City's pay of $17,854 was lower than Casper's and the statewide average, it did show an annual increase of 3.3 percent.

Annual pay data are for workers covered by state and federal unemployement insurance programs and are compiled from reports submitted by employers for more than 96 million workers nationally. The "average" pay is computed by dividing total annual pay of both full and part-time employees covered by unemployment insurance programs by the average monthly number of these employees.

U.S.A. AGES: AVERAGE 31.5 YEARS

The USA's population continues to grow, but more slowly than in the past.

According to the Census Bureau, the population on January 1, 1986, was 240,468,000. Births and deaths rose; immigration fell during 1985.

- Our median age reached an all-time high of 31.5 years.
- Minorities represented 15.1 percent of total population vs. 12.4 percent in 1970.
- Annual population growth dropped to 0.94 percent from 1.28 percent in 1970.

Source: USA Today

WYOMING PERSONAL INCOME UP 1.5 PERCENT

Recently received Bureau of Economic Analysis data showed nonfarm personal income in the Rocky Mountain region increasing 1.0 percent in the second quarter of 1986, the same as the national average. The increase in nonfarm personal income was more than the national average in Wyoming and Colorado and less than the national average in Idaho, Montana, and Utah.

Increases ranged from 1.5 percent in Wyoming (ranking 6th among all states) to 0.2 percent in Idaho (ranking 45th). In Wyoming, payroll increases in both durables and nondurables manufacturing, construction and federal, state and local government were well above the national average. Wyoming's increases in durables manufacturing, construction, and federal government payrolls were the largest in the nation.

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX - (1967 = 100)

ALL URBAN

	ALL ITEMS	FOOD & BEVERAGE	HOUSING	ENTER-TAINMENT	APPAREL & UPKEEP	TRANSP.	MEDICAL
September 1986	330.2	315.1	363.7	275.3	212.1	302.2	439.7
Annual % Change	1.8	4.3	2.8	3.2	1.2	-5.5	7.7

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Table 1

WYOMING ECONOMIC INDICATORS

ITEM	SEP 1986 [1]	AUG 1986 [1]	SEP 1985 [2]	Percent change From A Month Ago	Percent change From A Year Ago
WYOMING EMPLOYMENT DATA					
Total Civilian Labor Force	255,419	257,351	264,264	- 0.8	- 3.3
Unemployment	20,530	20,524	15,597	0.0	31.6
Employed Labor Force	234,889	236,827	248,667	- 0.8	- 5.5
a. Covered Employment (Under Wyo. UI Law)[3]	200,800	200,900	203,120	0.0	- 1.1
b. Agriculture[3]	12,693	12,693	12,926	0.0	- 1.8
Total Unemployment Rate (Wyo.) Seas. Adj.*	8.0% 9.9%*	8.0% 9.3%*	5.9% 7.3%*	XXX	XXX
Total Unemployment Rate (U.S.) Seas. Adj.*	6.8% 7.0%*	6.7% 6.8%*	6.9% 7.1%*	XXX	XXX
Insured Unemployment Rate (Wyo.)[4]	3.3%	3.5%	1.5%	XXX	XXX
HOURS & EARNINGS					
Mining (Production Workers):					
Average Weekly Earnings	$ 584.15	$ 584.98	$ 595.19	- 0.1	- 1.9
Average Weekly Hours	41.4	41.4	43.7	0.0	- 5.3
Average Hourly Earnings	$ 14.11	$ 14.13	$ 13.62	- 0.1	3.6
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE					
Claims Filed in Local Offices	34,124	30,153	14,221	13.2	140.0
a. Initial	3,769	3,406	2,160	10.7	74.5
Weeks Compensated	28,536	29,029	10,383	- 1.7	174.8
Total Amount Benefits Paid	$ 4,778,298	$ 4,827,411	$ 1,585,087	- 1.0	201.5
Average Weekly Benefit Payment	$ 167.11	$ 165.86	$ 151.43	0.8	10.4
EMPLOYMENT SERVICE					
New Applications Received During Month	3,839	4,173	3,842	- 8.0	- 0.1
Non-Ag. Openings Received	2,889	4,404	3,927	- 34.4	- 26.4
Non-Ag. Placements	2,934	3,142	3,307	- 6.6	- 11.3
UNITED STATES DATA					
HOURS & EARNINGS					
Mining (Production Workers):					
Average Weekly Earnings	$ 533.32	$ 527.88	$ 526.59	1.0	1.3
Average Weekly Hours	42.7	42.4	43.7	0.7	- 2.3
Average Hourly Earnings	$ 12.49	$ 12.45	$ 12.05	0.3	3.7
PRICE INDEXES					
Consumer Price Index 1967 = 100	330.2	328.6	324.5	0.5	1.8
Producer Prices, All Commodities	297.7	297.2	305.5	0.2	- 2.6
Food and Beverage 1967 = 100	315.1	314.6	302.1	0.2	4.3

[1] Preliminary. [2] Final. [3] Not Benchmarked to the Current Population Survey. [4] Rate does not include claimants receiving benefits under extended benefit provisions.

Source: Wyoming Employment Security Commission and Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Table 2

WYOMING
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE & UNEMPLOYMENT

(Prepared in Cooperation with U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics)

COUNTY	LABOR FORCE					UNEMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT RATE		
	SEP 1986	AUG 1986	SEP 1985 *	%CHANGE AUG-SEP	%CHANGE SEP-SEP	SEP 1986	AUG 1986	SEP 1985	SEP 1986	AUG 1986	SEP 1985
Statewide	255,419	257,351	264,264	- 0.8	- 3.3	20,530	20,524	15,597	8.0	8.0	5.9
Statewide - Seasonally adjusted									9.9	9.3	7.3
Albany	15,883	15,308	16,549	3.8	- 4.0	718	650	542	4.5	4.2	3.3
Big Horn	4,758	4,858	5,004	- 2.1	- 4.9	540	631	367	11.4	13.0	7.3
Campbell	19,671	19,659	19,663	0.1	0.0	1,736	1,788	1,254	8.8	9.1	6.4
Carbon	8,286	8,383	9,175	- 1.2	- 9.7	749	728	632	9.0	8.7	6.9
Converse	6,467	6,470	6,626	0.0	- 2.4	691	628	510	10.7	9.7	7.7
Crook	3,000	3,046	3,206	- 1.5	- 6.4	182	166	229	6.1	5.5	7.1
Fremont	15,674	15,538	16,655	0.9	- 5.9	1,574	1,612	1,466	10.0	10.4	8.8
Goshen	6,102	6,167	6,373	- 1.1	- 4.3	325	359	308	5.3	5.8	4.8
Hot Springs	2,719	2,792	2,954	- 2.6	- 8.0	215	248	135	7.9	8.9	4.6
Johnson	3,401	3,405	3,647	- 0.1	- 6.7	262	277	180	7.7	8.1	4.9
Laramie	35,718	35,533	36,032	0.5	- 0.9	2,045	1,897	1,764	5.7	5.3	4.9
Lincoln	9,626	9,425	9,740	2.1	- 1.2	725	716	528	7.5	7.6	5.4
Natrona	34,234	34,741	37,007	- 1.5	- 7.5	3,569	3,833	2,504	10.4	11.0	6.8
Niobrara	1,625	1,654	1,767	- 1.8	- 8.0	113	109	118	6.9	6.6	6.7
Park	14,190	15,491	14,520	- 8.4	- 2.3	1,090	1,161	762	7.7	7.5	5.2
Platte	3,562	3,412	3,942	4.4	- 9.6	278	279	300	7.8	8.2	7.6
Sheridan	13,062	12,736	13,663	2.6	- 4.4	854	756	821	6.5	5.9	6.0
Sublette	4,132	3,977	4,144	3.9	- 0.3	305	236	217	7.4	5.9	5.2
Sweetwater	22,456	22,271	22,211	0.8	1.1	2,140	2,018	1,383	9.5	9.1	6.2
Teton	10,865	12,398	11,022	- 12.4	- 1.4	444	296	388	4.1	2.4	3.5
Uinta	11,930	12,022	11,788	- 0.8	1.2	1,289	1,390	676	10.8	11.6	5.7
Washakie	4,940	4,943	5,154	- 0.1	- 4.2	442	444	290	8.9	9.0	5.6
Weston	3,117	3,122	3,421	- 0.2	- 8.9	246	303	223	7.9	9.7	6.5
United States									6.8	6.7	6.9
United States - Seasonally adjusted									7.0	6.8	7.1

* The data contained in this table includes updated procedures mandated by the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. In addition the 1985 data has been benchmarked to the Current Population Survey as conducted in Wyoming.

Table 3

NON-FARM WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT IN WYOMING

(Prepared in Cooperation with U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics)

INDUSTRY	EMPLOYMENT (In thousands)			% Change in Total Emp.	
	SEP 1986/	AUG 1986	SEP 1985	AUG 1986	SEP 1985
	Total	Total	Total	to SEP 1986	to SEP 1986
WYOMING NON-FARM WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT					
Total Non-Farm Wage & Salary Employment	201.3	201.1	212.7	0.1	- 5.4
Manufacturing	8.1	8.2	8.1	- 1.2	0.0
Durable Goods	4.0	4.0	3.9	0.0	2.6
Nondurable Goods	4.1	4.2	4.2	- 2.3	- 2.3
Petroleum & Coal Products	0.9	1.0	1.0	- 10.0	- 10.0
Total Non-Manufacturing Employment	193.2	192.9	204.6	0.2	- 5.6
Mining	21.2	21.6	26.4	- 1.9	- 19.7
Contract Construction	15.3	16.2	16.5	- 5.6	- 7.2
Transportation & Public Utilities	14.6	14.7	15.7	- 0.7	- 7.0
Railroad Transportation	2.9	2.9	3.2	0.0	- 9.3
Transportation except Railroads	5.5	5.5	6.0	0.0	- 8.3
Comm., Elect., Gas & Sani. Serv.	6.2	6.3	6.6	- 1.6	- 6.0
Wholesale & Retail Trade	44.2	44.7	46.6	- 1.1	- 5.1
Wholesale Trade	8.7	8.8	9.5	- 1.1	- 8.4
Retail Trade	35.5	35.9	37.1	- 1.1	- 4.3
Food Stores	5.0	5.0	5.3	0.0	- 5.7
Automotive Dealers & Serv. Stat.	6.3	6.3	6.4	0.0	- 1.6
Eating & Drinking Places	12.8	12.8	13.4	0.0	- 4.4
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	7.9	8.0	8.0	- 1.2	- 1.2
Services	35.9	37.9	37.7	- 5.2	- 4.8
Personal Services	1.9	2.0	2.1	- 5.0	- 9.5
Medical & Other Health Services	6.9	7.0	6.4	- 1.4	7.8
Government	54.0	49.9	53.6	8.2	0.7
Federal Government	8.3	8.5	8.5	- 2.3	- 2.3
State & Local Government	45.7	41.4	45.1	10.3	1.3
State Government	13.4	13.2	13.3	1.5	0.8
Local Government	32.3	28.2	31.7	14.5	1.9

(See Footnotes at End of Table)